



US006152443A

United States Patent [19]**Claramunt et al.**[11] **Patent Number:** **6,152,443**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Nov. 28, 2000**[54] **OPTICAL DEVICE FOR DETECTING THE PRINTING MEDIA IN PRINTERS**[75] Inventors: **David Claramunt; Luis Hierro**, both of Barcelona, Spain[73] Assignee: **Hewlett-Packard Company**, Fort Collins, Colo.[21] Appl. No.: **09/143,181**[22] Filed: **Aug. 28, 1998**[30] **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Sep. 2, 1997 [EP] European Pat. Off. 97500151

[51] Int. Cl.⁷ **B65H 7/02; B65H 83/00; B65H 1/18; H01J 40/14; S01D 5/36**[52] U.S. Cl. **271/258.05; 271/3.17; 271/152; 250/214 PR; 250/232; 250/559.4**

[58] Field of Search 250/214 PR, 232, 250/233, 559.4; 271/3.15, 3.17, 227, 258.01, 262, 263, 258.05, 265.04, 152

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An optical device for detecting the printing media in printers includes an element pivoting on two rotation pivots which are incorporated therein a certain distance apart and which are guided in respective independent curved grooves. The pivoting element includes two extensions which point outwards from the central portion of the element, and of which one is intended to receive, at its front and rear edges, the end edges of the laminar printing media during its forward and rearward movements towards and away from the input rollers of the laminar substrate in the printer. The second extension of the pivoting element can move into and out of an opening of the optical detector in a manner corresponding to the rotary movements of the pivoting element brought about by the movements of the printing media. The pivoting element of the detector is located in a position such that the extension on which the printing media is intended to act establishes contact with the face of the printing media opposite to that which receives the printing.

15 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets